



Farnham Geological Society

**Friday 13th March 2026; 7:15pm for 7:30pm
*on Zoom***

Introduction to The Toba Super-eruption

Doreen van Seenus



The Toba volcanic eruption of 74,000 years ago is thought to have been the largest explosive eruption in the Quaternary. As (obviously) there are no records, only geoscientific research can discern the magnitude of this eruption, thought to have been VEI 8, and the effects on climate as well as on life on Earth. There is evidence of a consequent human population bottleneck and it is thought that humanity was almost wiped out!

Amazingly, this eruption has only been known about since the 1990s. In this talk I shall discuss the sound scientific research that led to this discovery.

*After **Doreen** retired from a career in medicine she was at last able to indulge her passion for geology and volcanoes in particular.*

This interest goes back to her childhood, when she lived with the family in Indonesia for three years.

Wanting to get a good scientific grounding, she did an Open University degree course and graduated in 2017 with a B.Sc. (Honours) in Natural Sciences (Earth Sciences).

She is a member of the Kent Geology Group and the Open University Geological Society and has regularly presented talks on volcanoes, both “live” and via Zoom, for these organisations.